



# U.S. Customs and Border Protection

## Agriculture Fact Sheet

### Threats to the U.S. Agriculture Industry

- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), agriculture contributes over 19 million jobs in the U.S. with more than \$1 trillion in annual economic activity (USDA Economic Research Service, 2020).
- The greatest risks to the success of this industry are exotic pests and foreign animal diseases. Invasive species have caused \$138 billion annually in economic and environmental losses in the U.S., including yield and quality losses for America's agriculture industry (Pimentel et al, 2000).
- Each day, CBP helps to prevent the intentional and unintentional introduction of potentially harmful plant pests and foreign animal diseases into the U.S. at more than 300 ports of entry.



### Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Agriculture Statistics

<b>Passenger Inspection</b>	9,478,443
<b>Cargo Inspections</b>	849,187
<b>Quarantine Material Interceptions (QMI)</b>	
Animal By-Product	3,165
Meat Products	190, 507
Plant Material/Soil	392,955
Total QMI	635,361
(Number of Seizures)	
<b>Pest Interceptions</b>	
Submitted	78,951
Reportable Pests	33,934
<b>Total Civil Violations</b>	7,190

### Workforce and Career Enhancement

In 2003, 1,573 agriculture specialists transitioned from USDA to CBP. Now, CBP deploys more than 2,600 agriculture specialists at over 180 ports of entry.





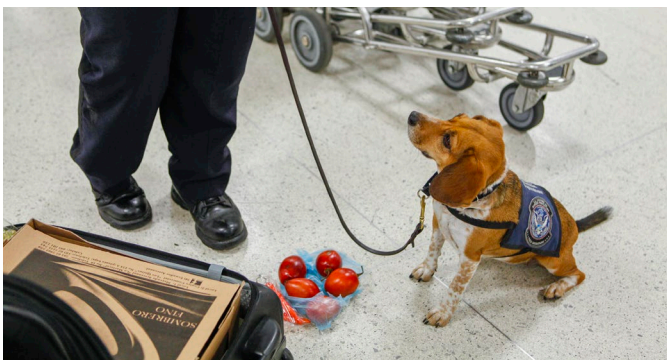
## Training

CBP and the USDA's, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have continued to develop and use pest-detection training modules to strengthen inspection efforts since 2004.

These include modules on the AGM (*Lymantria dispar*), Khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*), Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*), citrus greening disease (*Huanglongbing*), and wood packaging materials (WPM).

## Agriculture Canine

In 1984, the USDA established its detector dog program, the "Beagle Brigade," at the Los Angeles International Airport, with one beagle trained to sniff out plants and animal products in checked luggage and carry-on items arriving on international flights. In 2003, approximately 75 canine teams were included when the Homeland Security Act transferred the agriculture inspection function to CBP. Today, the CBP agriculture canine program is growing to approximately 180 detector dog teams, providing screening at border crossings, preclearance locations, air passenger terminals, cruise terminals, cargo warehouses, and mail facilities that process international passengers and merchandise.



CBP's agriculture canine teams initially train at the USDA's National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC). When the canine teams are deployed to the field, CBP continually reinforces the training the canines received at the NDDTC.

## Pest Exclusion & Agriculture Safeguarding

In addition to exclusionary and safeguarding practices at the ports of entry, agriculture specialists engage in extensive outreach through the use of social media, talking events, and digital signage aimed at informing the traveling public of the negative environmental and economic impacts that foreign pests and animal diseases, such as African swine fever, may have if introduced into our nation.



The Khapra beetle is one of the world's most destructive stored-product pests. It feeds on a variety of dried materials, is resistant to insecticides, and can go long periods without food, with a larva being able to survive dormant for up to two (2) years. Khapra beetles are not known to occur in the U.S. and its introduction into the U.S. could have serious consequences and economic impact. The average Khapra beetle interceptions for CBP between FY 2018 and FY 2021 were approximately 159 pests per year.

WPM, typically used for transport, is a high-risk source of pests for trees. Pests like the Asian Longhorned Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer were introduced to the U.S. with WPM. To minimize the risks, regulations require WPM to be heat treated or fumigated as per ISPM 15 and be marked with valid markings. Non-compliant WPM is denied entry into the U.S.

Contaminants like soil, manure, seeds, and plant/animal material may harbor invasive pests and diseases, including African swine fever and Federal noxious weeds. Eliminating contaminants in conveyances and cargo prior to their shipment will result in fewer holds, delays, and commodity returns or treatments.